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Message Text

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12
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 AID-20 CU-04 DRC-01 SIL-01

LAB-06 /109 W
---------- 102736
O R 150820Z JAN 74
FM AMCONSUL UDORN
TO RUMTC/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE 1548
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 119
AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 UDORN 14
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TH, US
SUBJECT: UDORN SITREP 1200 JAN 15
REF: UDORN 12, 13
1. SUMMARY: UDORN GOVERNOR, AIR AMERICA (AA) CHIEF IN UDORN, LABOR DEPARTMENT REPS, AND EMPLOYEES NEGOTIATED ALL NIGHT ON WORKER DEMANDS FOR HIGHER PAY AND BENEFITS. COMPANY AGREED TO SOME DEMANDS AND IS REFERRING OTHERS TO WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS. STRIKING EMPLOYEES OCCUPIED PROVINCIAL OFFICE COMPOUND AL* DAY AND NIGHT, BARRING EXIT AND ENTRY, AND DAMAGED AA CHIEF'S CAR. STRIKERS REFUSED ALLOW AA HEAD LEAVE, UNTIL HE SIGNED AGREEMENT PROMISING INTER ALIA TO RESPOND TO DEMANDS BY JAN 18.
2. GOVERNOR TOLD ME JAN 15 THAT RESTRICTIONS U.S. MILITARY IMPOSED JAN 14 ON GI'S COMING INTO TOWN COULD BE LIFTED. IN RESPONSE STUDENT DEMAND TO GOVERNOR AND CONSULATE THAT GI'S COME INTO TOWN ONLY ONCE A WEEK, GOVERN HAS SCHEDULED MEETING TO DISCUSS POLICY WITH U.S. MILITARY COMMANDERS AND MYSELF JAN 19. STUDENTS ENDED DAY OF DEMONSTRATIONS BY LAYING WREATH ATTACKING CIA AT AIR BASE BUT NO CONFRONTATION WITH USAF SINCE THAI AIR FORCE GUARDS MANNED GATE.
3. GOVERNOR ADVISED THAT IN EXISTING SITUATION IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR AMB TO POSTPONE VISIT TO UDORN THIS WEEKEND.
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END SUMMARY.

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4. AA VICE PRESIDENT ABADIE IN CHARGE UDORN CALLED ME EARLY JAN 14 TO TRY TO ARRANGE MTG WITH GOV ANEK RE STRIKE. WE TRIED TO CONTACT GOV ALL DAY BUT DID NOT SUCCEED UNTIL AFTERNOON WHEN WE SET UP MTG AT GOV OFFICE AT 1730.
5. MEANWHILE ABOUT 500 STRIKERS CAMPED ALL DAY AT PROVINCIAL OFFICE WHERE GOV TALKED TO THEM. STRIKERS WERE POSTED AT ALL GATES OF COMPOUND AND RESTRICTED ACCESS TO IT. SOME HAD CLUBS. AS EVENING PASSED, SOME STRIKERS REPORTEDLY DRUNK AND THREATENED TO ATTACK ABADIE HOME AND MARCH ON CONSULATE IF DEMANDS NOT MET. THEY DID DAMAGE ABADIE'S CAR BUT DID NOT HURT ANY AMERICANS.
6. IN MTG WE SET UP WITH GOV, ABADIE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS PERSONNEL OFFICER, AA LABOR RELATIONS REP FROM BANGKOK, AND SEVERAL THAI EMPLOYEES WHO SIDED WITH MANAGEMENT. AFTER HEARING COMPANY VIEWS, GOV WENT OUT TO SPEAK TO STRIKERS, THEN RETURNED TO ASK ABADIE MEET INFORMALLY WITH THEIR REPS. ABADIE RELUC-TANTLY AGREED. I ATTENDED FIRST MEETING BUT NOT SECOND ONE SINCE GOV COMMENTED THAT STRIKERS MIGHT NOT THINK I HAD ANY BUSINESS THERE.
7. MEETING WITH REPS OF STRIKERS TURNED INTO NEGOTIATING SESSION

WHICH LASTED ALL NIGHT. STRIKERS DISCUSSED DEMANDS FOR HIGHER WAGES AND OTHER BENEFITS WHICH HAD BEEN DISTRIBUTED IN LEAFLETS TO WORKERS ABOUT A WEEK BEFORE. ABADIE AGREED TO SEVERAL DEMANDS CONCERNING METHOD OF DISMISSING EMPLOYEES AND NO PUNITIVE ACTION AGAINST STRIKERS BUT SAID DEMANDS CONCERNING PAYMENT OF MORE MONEY HAD TO BE REFERRED TO WASHINGTON HEAD-QUARTERS.
8. STRIKERS THEN SAID ABADIE COULD LEAVE TO CABLE DEMANDS TO WASHINGTON, BUT THAI WITH HIM WOULD HAVE TO REMAIN AS HOSTAGES. HE REFUSED. HIS PARTY FINALLY ALLOWED LEAVE AFTER AGREEMENT SIGNED BY HIM, STRIKING EMPLOYEE, GOV, AND LABOR DEPT REP WITH FOLLOWING POINTS:
A. AA TO RESPOND TO DEMANDS BY JAN 18.
B. NO DISMISSAL OF EMPLOYEES BEFORE THEN. (AA HAD PREVIOUSLY PLANNED REDUCTION IN FORCE OF ABOUT 100 THIS WEEK.)
C. EMPLOYEES WOULD CONTINUE STRIKE WITHOUT WAGES WHILE AWAITING-ING RESPONSE. THEY ALSO WOULD NOT BOTHER PERSONS OR COMPANY PROPERTY.
9. GOV UNWILLING OR UNABLE PREVENT STRIKERS FROM CONTROLLING
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HIS COMPOUND AND LATER EXPRESSED REGRET TO ME. HIS OBJECTIVE WAS TO GET THEM TO DISPERSE WHICH APPARENTLY THEY ONLY WILLING TO DO AFTER EXTRACTING CONCESSIONS FROM AA. STRIKERS LEFT PROVINCIAL OFFICE MORNING JAN 15, BUT ABADIE TOLD ME AT NOON THAT THEY STILL THREATENING EMPLOYEES IN VIOLATION POINT C ABOVE. I WILL PASS THIS TO GOV LATER TODAY.
10. GOV TOLD ME JAN 15 THAT SITUATION NOW CALM ENOUGH FOR U.S. MILITARY ENTER TOWN AGAIN BUT U.S. COMMANDERS SHOULD STRESS

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PROPER BEHAVIOR. HE AGREED SET UP MTG WITH U.S. MILITARY COM-
MANDERS AND MYSELF JAN 19 TO DISCUSS WHAT TO DO ABOUT STUDENT
DEMAND THAT GI'S COME INTO TOWN ONLY ONE DAY A WEEK. SINCE
DEMONSTRATION YESTERDAY, I LEARNED THAT STUDENTS WANT GI'S IN
ON SUNDAYS WHEN BARS CLOSED BECAUSE OF OIL SHORTAGE. GOV OFF

TOP OF HIS HEAD MENTIONED THAT GI'S MIGHT BE RESTRICTED TO THREE
DAYS A WEEK IN TWON. HE UNDERSTANDS ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF
RESTRICTION BUT APPARENTLY WANTS TO GIVE SOME SATISFACTION TO
STUDENTS.
11. ALTHOUGH SITUATION CALM ON SURFACE AND AMERICANS

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MRN: 1974UDORN 000014 SEGMENT NUMBER: 000002 ERROR READING TEXT INDEX
FILE; TELEGRAM TEXT FOR THIS SEGMENT IS UNAVAILABLE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 15 JAN 1974
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: RR
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To: BANGKOK SECSTATE WASHDC CHIANG MAI VIENTIANE
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